

St Louis Bird Club Bulletin

Official Organ of the Saint Louis Bird Club
for the
Enjoyment, Study and Conservation of Birds

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NO. I

THE ANNUAL MEETING

The outstanding event for this meeting will be the election of officers, as provided in the by-laws, and will be held on the third Wednesday of January, the 19th, in Room 112 at the Soldan High School at 8 P. M.

A nominating committee has been appointed and will report its selection. You are urged to come and make your own selection of candidates.

Let's have a spirited meeting.

Another feature of the meeting, to provide entertainment for all members and their guests who may attend, will be some outstanding motion pictures on "The How and Why of Bird Banding" and "The Flyways". Here is a chance to learn something of what banding is all about and also about the migratory routes of the ducks.

*****feed the birds*****

ATTACK CAGE TRAFFIC IN NATIVE SONG BIRDS

The U. S. Biological Survey has instructed its Game Management agents throughout the country to be on the lookout for cage traffic in native migratory birds.

Investigations have revealed considerable traffic in live migratory birds, particularly indigo buntings, painted buntings, American goldfinches and possibly mockingbirds. Painted buntings are also known as nonpareils, butterfly finches or redpope. Many birds that migrate between this country and Canada have had federal protection for 20 years under an international treaty with Great Britain.

Last March a similar treaty with Mexico extended federal protection to other birds including buntings, finches and mockingbirds.

The Biological Survey, say officials, is not disposed to molest persons holding caged birds added to the federal list by the Mexican treaty if they obtained the birds before the treaty went into effect last March 15th. Such persons, however, may not sell, exchange or otherwise dispose of the birds except by gift to a public museum, a zoological park or other scientific institution. The wildlife G-men intend to stamp out all traffic in these birds. Unlawful trapping will result in arrests. "The Migratory Bird Treaty Act regulations under conventions with Great Britain and the United Mexican States" says the Bureau, "do not authorize the sale or purchase of live migratory nongame birds by dealers or others (except holders of scientific permits and public museums, zoological parks and societies, and public scientific and educational institutions)".

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Recognizing that there are probably a number of dealers in birds in this country who may not be familiar with both treaties protecting migratory birds, the Biological Survey is making every effort to provide detailed information, and lists of protected birds are available at the bureau.

"But appropriate action," it is pointed out, "will be taken against any dealers or other persons who deliberately fail to comply with the law after being informed of it".

*****feed the birds*****

WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

The Third Annual Wildlife Conference set for Baltimore February 14, 15, 16, 17 will mark one more step in progress of the general conservation and restoration movement. The Lord Baltimore Hotel will be headquarters for the convention.

Important among the subjects to be treated at the Baltimore sessions will be plans for National Wildlife Week, to be held next March.

Wildlife week will be dedicated to the purpose of bringing home to the general public the importance of wildlife as a great natural resource and the economic necessity of preserving that resource.

*****feed the birds*****

STRANGE YULETIDE TRADITIONS

By pecking some crumbs on a drumhead the WREN warned the Danes against the Irish troops.

Since then the wren has been killed each Christmas in Ireland and boys carry it from door to door to collect money.

Your canary sings in gratitude to the Fir trees which, in the Harz Mountains protected them from a gale that, one Christmas blew down all the other trees.

*****feed the birds*****

WPA AIDS BIRD LOVERS IN HONORING AUDUBON'S MEMORY

Honoring the memory of John James Audubon, famous American artist and ornithologist, a museum is being erected by WPA workmen in the Audubon Memorial Park, a mile north of Henderson, Kentucky. High on a hill overlooking a majestic stretch of the Ohio River, the gray stone two story building is surrounded by the 400 acre park with its rolling land and thick woods.

The Federal Government, the State of Kentucky, the City of Henderson, the Henderson Historical Society and the Transylvania Society are sponsoring the undertaking. In addition, Audubon enthusiasts from all over the nation have agreed to send in valuable prints, papers, portraits and other mementos of the great naturalist, it is announced.

A complete collection of Audubon prints will be exhibited in a double frieze in the main gallery on the first floor of the museum. The second floor will have space for stuffed birds books, portraits and other Audubonia. There will also be a Kentucky room, which will contain relics of Daniel Boone, who was a close friend of Audubon, and mementoes of other contemporaries. A Transylvania room will honor the notables of this society of early settlers.

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SAINT : LOUIS : BIRD : CLUB : BULLETIN

Mr. Louis M. Weber, Editor

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Price \$1.00 a year in advance. Free to
paid-up members of the Club. Subscrip-
tion begins with the January number:::

CLUB OFFICERS

President.....Dr. D. M. Hetler

Vice-president...Mr. Sterling P. Jones

Treasurer.....Mr. Thos. D. Miller

Director.....Miss L. R. Ernst

Director.....Mr. Wayne Short

Secretary.....Miss Anne Loftus

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The Norman style of architecture has been employed in the museum structure because of Audubon's ancestry. This allowed the construction of a round tower in the museum with pigeon holes so the birds can nest in the masonry. A formal garden will be laid out in front of the building with the wheel from the grist and lumber mill that Audubon built at Henderson, and which ended so disastrously for him, in the center. Near the museum will be a French gatehouse.

The decade that Audubon spent in Henderson included the happiest and saddest years of his life. Kentucky was practically a wilderness when Audubon, unsuccessful in the mercantile business in Louisville, arrived at Henderson on a flatboat in 1817 at the age of 25. With him was Lucy Bakewell Audubon, whom he married two years before. Their daughter, Lucy, died and was buried there while still a child.

NEW RESEARCH UNIT

Establishment of a Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Missouri at Columbia under a co-operative Commission and the U. S. Biological Survey has been approved by Secretary of Agriculture H. A. Wallace.

Wildlife investigations at the new unit will be planned by an advisory committee consisting of representatives of the three co-operating agencies. Missouri is the tenth state to enter in an agreement with the Survey.

*****Feed the birds*****

NO OPEN SEASON ON BLACKBIRDS

Throughout the state there are many persons who believe that there is a continuous open season on blackbirds of all kinds. This is erroneous and the Conservation Commission wishes to point out that the only time the following types of blackbirds can be destroyed is when they become seriously detrimental to crops or ornamental shade trees.

The reason that such birds are being protected is not because of a Missouri law but because of a ruling of the Federal Government recently amended by Harry L. Brown, acting Secretary of Agriculture:

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Yellow-headed, red-wing, bi-colored red-wing, tri-colored red-wing, Brewer's and boat-tailed grackles are the ones that receive this protection.

When a Federal law is more restrictive than a state law the former prevails and violation of such would be a Federal offense. If any birds are killed or taken because they are damaging crops, etc., they may not be shipped or transported without special permission from the Government.

*****feed the birds*****

SPORT ? AT FIVE CENTS PER

H. H. Smith, of Clarks Summit, stopped in the office the other day and told me about the fun some of the Scranton boys are having catching starlings in old barns, towers and church steeples. Five or six men climb into these places with gunny sacks and flashlights, then the fun begins. When the light is flashed in corners the birds take it for an opening and soon hundreds cover the spot. H.S. said it is easy to catch from ten to twelve hundred starlings a night in this manner. They are later used for live shoots, and at five cents per bird they provide fine sport for the shooters and a nice revenue for the club.

The dead birds are picked up by local people, mostly Slavish or Italian descent, who take them home and eat them.

-- from the Pennsylvania Conservation News

FOUR YEARS OF BIRD BANDING

In four years of bird banding I have banded 575 birds of 34 species. Newest to the list of banded birds is a Ruby-crowned kinglet banded on Dec. 5, 1937. The Junco leads the way with 65, next comes the Tufted titmice with 54, then the Bluejay with 45 being banded.

I have received only one foreign report, that of a Red-shouldered hawk. I banded it, in the nest, on August 22, 1934 and on August 23, 1934 it was killed at Lavillia, Iowa. Some of the Titmice, Nuthatches, Cardinals, Chickadees and Bluejays have been repeating for four years and I have had yearly returns from Juncos, White-throated sparrows, Catbirds and Brown thrashers.

My traps consist of a Drop Trap, Baldwin Woodpecker Trap, Government Sparrow Trap and Cohasset Warbler Trap. Most of the birds have been taken in the drop trap. Thirtyfive have been birds banded in the nest while twelve birds were captured with the aid of flashlights at night, but the newest method of capture was of a dove taken on the nest with the aid of a mirror and the sunshine.

My station is operated only on week ends, at Sherman, Mo., on the Meramec about 25 miles west of St. Louis. I have yet to trap a bird banded by someone else, although some two million birds wear bands in the United States. Many birds have been banded at Webster Groves, Mo., about 12 miles east, but they evidently do not travel westward.

The most outstanding feature of the station is the interest in birds it has given to the people in the neighborhood. Most of them now have a well supplied feeding

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stand in the winter time and some of them are such enthusiastic bird watchers and lovers that they keep a feeding stand supplied all year round, the three main items of food being bread, suet and sunflower seed. Water for the birds is not a problem because the Meramec River is only about a hundred yards away. We have numerous birds of many species the year round, but when the ground is covered with snow we have extra large flocks of birds seeking food.

I banded a pair of White-breasted nuthatches and their eight young on April 29, 1934. One of the males from this brood mated with its mother the following Spring and they raised seven young, in the same nest box, which I banded on April 26, 1936. In the Spring of 1937 a pair of banded Nuthatches began to build in the same nest box, but after working for several weeks they abandoned the nest.

I have not been able to trap a Nuthatch recently, although there are some in the neighborhood. I have not found any other instances of inbreeding amongst the other families of birds which I banded.

The following birds have nested within a hundred yard radius of my banding station: Kildeer, Dove, Cuckoo, Chimney swift, Flicker, Crested flycatcher, Phoebe, Cliff swallow, Bluejay, Chickadee, White-breasted nuthatch, House wren, Cat bird, Brown thrasher, Robin, Wood thrush, Bluebird, English sparrow, Cardinal and Chipping sparrow.

L.M. Weber

*** *****feed the birds*****

THE WATERFOWL SITUATION

As a result of improved condition on parts of the breeding grounds in the United States and Canada, coupled with heavy restrictions in the shooting privileges in both countries, the North American waterfowl population is showing a definite increase over the low point that was reached in 1934.

The hatch of 1936 was better than in 1935, although severe drouth conditions in parts of the breeding range did unquestionable damage and resulted in the loss of part of the crop of ducklings. This loss, however, was offset in part by newly restored Federal refuges. Nevertheless, continued investigations have shown that enormous areas in the North still support but a fraction of their potential capacity in ducks and geese.

Sportsmen and conservationists should not be absorbed by these evidences of an apparent increase, but should, instead, be concerned with the significance of those vast nesting grounds of the North still so woefully underpopulated.

In recent years there has been a tendency to blame the shortage of waterfowl chiefly upon the drouth and drainage. Without intending in any way to minimize the damage caused by these two factors -- and it has been great -- the fact remains that the principal reason for the great reduction is just plain over-shooting. Progressive over-shooting went on for many years before drought conditions became acute, even before extensive drainage operations were undertaken in important waterfowl nesting areas.

It is the opinion of the Biological Survey that the migratory waterfowl can be restored to a numerical status that will each year assure reasonable sport to the wildfowlers of the United States and Canada and Mexico. This, however, will not warrant a return of the highly artificial methods of shooting that were formerly so conducive of excess killing. Duck hunting today is a "sport" and not a necessity. "Limit" bags should cease to be the acme of the sportsman's ambition. (Leaflet BS-88 U.S. Dept. of Agr.)

SHELVES GUN FOR CAMERA

A hunter so impressed with the beauty of nature that he made up his mind not to disturb its calm, has forsaken that sport. Instead, Eilliam L. Zeller of Spring Bay, Ill., goes afield armed with a camera, possibly a step-ladder and patience, which have won him wide acclaim for colored pictures of birds, writes Willard Johnson in the Peoria, Ill. Star.

Cats, snakes and boys with guns are the biggest menace to birds in Zeller's opinion. Snakes are probably the meanest robbers. Bull snakes, he finds, are able to climb trees. They steal eggs from the birds and when they are not in the mood for second story prowling they raid hen houses. Black snakes also climb trees and stage many raids. Cats are cruel. They stalk birds, especially at night, and tear nests to pieces trying to catch them. For years he has been the benefactor of various song birds by building different kinds of houses for them. From his workshop have come homes for wrens and other songsters, which he later photographed while building nests. Bird houses are sprinkled liberally about his Spring Bay home and private lodge.

*****feed the birds*****

WARDENS ON THE JOB

The recent controversy over the appointment of I. T. Bode as Executive Director of the Missouri State Conservation Commission has caused the impression in some quarters that there has been a suspension of the game warden service in the state, something the commission wishes to contradict.

There has been no change in the system and the commission is, on the other hand, making every effort to build it up and make it more effective. The court action has no effect upon this part of the commission's work.

TUNE IN

Jay N. (Ding) Darling, president of the General Wildlife Federation, inaugurated a series of radio programs on conservation over a coast to coast Mutual hook-up from Washington November 7. Mr. Darling's talk was the first in a series arranged by the American Wildlife Institute, to be followed by pertinent speeches on wildlife conservation and restoration from such eminent authorities in the field as

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Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace, former United States Senator Frederic C. Wolcott and Chief of the Biological Survey Ira N. Gabrielson and others to participate in the series. The broadcasts now go on the air Sunday mornings at 11.30 over out-station WOL. Be sure to listen in for latest information on conservation problems.

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HUNTING LICENSE TESTS

Should hunters be required to pass a test? Should the hunter be familiar with the game laws and know what game he can kill legally and what he should not shoot at and should he know how to handle firearms with safety?

Some test should be required of a hunter before a license is issued to him and provisions should be made in our game laws to revoke a license for violation of the law.

DUCK POPULATION

1870 --- 1,000,000,000 1930 --- 100,000,000 1935 ---
27,999,000

Duck population, close of 1934 breeding season --

	44,000,000
Legal take in the United States 1934-35	6,000,000
Legal take in Canada and Mexico 1934-35	5,000,000
Loss due to illegal hunting and	

natural causes	6,000,000
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Total loss - - - - -	17,000,000
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Ducks in the United States at the close of 1934-35 season - - - - -	17,000,000
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Ducks south of the Rio Grande at close of the 1934-35 season - - - - -	10,000,000
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Total number of birds surviving for breeding in 1935 - - - - -	27,000,000
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These are estimates only, by the Bureau of Biological Survey.

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

Members who did not attend the October meeting missed an opportunity of hearing Father Link, educational director of the Springfield Nature League of Springfield, Illinois. His talk was not a lecture, but much more of an informal nature, which was not confined to birds. He dwelt impressively on the difficulties, discouragements and often misleading information that the child mind has to overcome in its urge to know something about the why of nature's mystifying ways, and a plea for patience and encouragement when the budding mind manifests that urge with endless questions, a plea for nature education that will lead to a greater appreciation and understanding in maturer years.

His boyhood days were spent in St. Louis and he told, with a glint of wit in his smiling eyes of some of his own obstacles and experiences, sometimes amusing, some pathetic, that had to be met and overcome.

At the November meeting the motion pictures announced

to be used failed to arrive in time, and the collection of bird lantern slides of the Audubon Society of Missouri was substituted and shown by S. P. Jones.

*****feed the birds*****

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Audubon: An Intimate Life of the American Woodsman,- by Stanley Clisby Arthur. This latest biography has the great merit of being a factual one, the author keeping in the background and letting the narrative speak for itself, but it is the new material now first printed from Audubon's original manuscripts that gives it its chief importance.

Paths of Conservation,- by James Tippet. It is number 6 of a series called "Our Animal Books, a Series in Human Education." Their purpose is to encourage young people in intelligent regard for animals. The chapters deal with disappearing species, stories of birds, trees, landscaping, flowers and mammals adopted by the various states.

Thirst on the Land,- by William Vogt. It deals with devastation that has been wrought by draining marshes, swamps, lakes in the name of mosquito control and other dubious projects.

Crow-Waterfowl Relationships, Based on Preliminary Studies of Canadian Breeding Grounds,- by E. R. Kalmbach. Written by one who has studied the crow for many years and is fair to both the crow and his enemies. It is an answer to those who have unduly blamed the crow for the disease of waterfowl and other game birds.

*****feed the birds*****

LOST AND FOUND

Lost - one president, Dr. Donald M. Hetler by name, last heard of at the University of Montana, Butte, Mont. We miss him now, and will especially next spring when, under his battered old hat he lead groups of bird students on tours of bird inspection.

Found,- one ex-editor, Roland M. Dede by name, who after a year's absence is again located at Concordia Seminary, for a while at least. Welcome home.

Another find,- Miss Elizabeth Golterman, who left but couldn't stay away. As the meadowlark says, "Glad-to-see-yu"

YOUR DUES ARE DUE FOR 1938

If you will remit the amount of your dues at once to the Secretary it would save a lot of secretarial penmanship - and worry - and paper - and envelopes - and postage - and simplify matters so very much.

And- if you are a Bird Club affiliate member of the Audubon Society of Missouri you can add 50 cents to your remittance, which will be forwarded to that organization.

Do it now, or else come to the meeting on November 19th and do it then.